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Hungarians Assert A Yale Professor Spied for the C.I.A.

BUDAPEST, July 4 (UPI)—The Hungarian newspaper Magyar Nemzet has accused John Michael Montlas, a Yale University professor, of spying for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Under the headline "A curious case: What did Professor Montlas want to study in Hungary?" the newspaper printed a long article yesterday, charging the professor, who went to Hungary in a cultural exchange, with attempting to obtain secret documents.

The newspaper wrote: "A professorship as lecturer of political economy at Yale University is not the only occupation he pursues. He is a member of several institutions and organizations who like to study the Socialist countries under various aspects and using various methods."

"There is general knowledge that these institutions maintain close relations with the American C.I.A."

The article said that Professor Montlas came to Hungary under an exchange agreement between the Institute of Cultural Relations of Hungary and the Inter-University Committee on Travel Grants of the United States.

The newspaper said he had chosen to study "the chief economic factors that determine the volume and structure of Hungary's foreign trade."

Professor Montlas did research in Hungary from August, 1956, through February, 1966, when he returned to the United States.

Professor Denies Link

Professor Montlas said last night that he was not a C.I.A. agent and was not even a Government consultant.

Reached by telephone at his home in New Haven, he said

that he had visited Hungary as an exchange scholar and had been treated courteously by the Hungarian Government. He added that the Hungarians had not indicated at any point any unhappiness about his activities.

The professor said he had collected material on foreign trade, with most of his information coming from published sources and some from interviews.

"I carried out my research as best as I could by methods that anywhere else would be considered admissible," he said.